

# SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



**Within 30 days of arrival, all school age children will need to be enrolled in school.**

Schooling in the US will have many differences from the cultures of the newcomers. It is also possible that children had a lapse in their education due to war, displacement, time in a refugee camp, etc. Many newcomers come from cultures where teachers are revered and not questioned. Consequently, the notion of parental involvement in their children's education may be unfamiliar to parents. Throughout the resettlement and integration process, you can support the newcomers by encouraging them and teaching them how to stay involved in their children's education. This begins with school enrollment.

## ENROLLING CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

Every school district will have different enrollment processes. It is helpful if you can familiarize yourself with the local school district and its enrollment process before the newcomers arrive. Call or visit the local school district's main office or website to find out which school newcomer children may attend.

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED FOR ENROLLMENT

- Passports or I94
- Immunization records
- Proof of residence (rental agreement and/or utility bill).

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Language Assessments:** If newcomer children do not speak English, the school district will evaluate their language skills. The school will then provide them with the services they need to learn English in order to participate in the academic program.

**Children with Disabilities:** If newcomer children have a disability, they may receive free special education and related services. The school is responsible for communicating with parents about these decisions in a language that they can understand.

**Getting to School:** Children can sometimes walk to school in the U.S. If the school is too far away or if it is not safe to walk, they may ride a school bus or take public transportation, such as a subway or train. Many public schools have free buses that pick up and drop off students at a school bus stop near newcomer's home. Other public schools provide eligible students with passes so that they can ride local public transportation for free or at a reduced cost.

**Meals:** Newcomer children can take lunch to school, or the US government also provides nutritious free or low-cost breakfast and lunch for eligible children who cannot afford to buy food at school.